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Dated: June 9, 2004

Signature: Q QL (Address) Sharp)

Docket No.: 28911/34561

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Jeffrey K. Horton

Application No.: 09/027,654

Art Unit: 1641

Filed: February 23, 1998

Examiner: Gailene Gabel

For: IN-SITU CELL EXTRACTION AND ASSAY

METHOD

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 15, 2004 in the above-identified application in which all pending claims (1,2 and 4-14 and 16-21) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Reconsideration of the claims and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections are requested in light of the following amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.